

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A method for treating constipation in a patient receiving opioids chronically,
comprising administering orally to the patient receiving opioids chronically a
5 quaternary derivative of noroxymorphone in an amount to achieve laxation within 24
hours.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient is receiving an oral dose between 30
and 100 mg/day of methadone (or a dose of another opioid which is a morphine
10 equivalent dose of between 30 and 100 mg/day of methadone).

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient is receiving an oral dose between 41
and 100 mg/day of methadone (or a dose of another opioid which is a morphine
equivalent dose of between 41 and 100 mg/day of methadone).

15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the laxation is within 10 hours.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of the quaternary derivative of
noroxymorphone is between 0.3 and 3.0 mg/kg per day.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the quaternary derivative of noroxymorphone is
not enteric coated.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the quaternary derivative of noroxymorphone is
25 enteric coated.

8. The method of any of claims 1-5, wherein the quaternary derivative or
noroxymorphone is methylnaltrexone.